

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN.

SATURDAY MORNING, DEC. 23, 1847.

WILLIAM BUCKMINSTER, EDITOR.

NATIONAL HONOR.

Our papers are filled, in these latter days, with this captivating phrase. "National honor" requires this course, and "National honor" forbids that course. "National honor" will not admit of our being cheated. But "National honor" allows us to cheat and rob our neighbors. "National honor" cannot be satisfied with any thing short of as much as can possibly be wrung from others. It is a stranger to magnanimity, generosity, and equity. Such terms are hardly made use of by eminent negotiators and adjusters of disputes between nations.

But children ask, (and we join them) what made National honor to differ so much from individual honor? Do we call on individual honor when he has to do with a man, and on National honor when he has to do with a nation? Or is it because in a government to spare its people to the utmost by taxation?

Our children are taught the practice not only of equity, but of magnanimity and generosity in their intercourse with each other; and in settling disputes to yield a little for the sake of peace; not to others as they would that others should do to them.

The world at large—often the wicked world—admires the individual who regards the good of others more than self. Washington would take no pay for his seven years' service at the head of the army. La Fayette served for many years as a Major General at his own cost, and the world has not yet forgotten these generous services. Why then are magnanimity and generosity so scarce in nations and nations?

Our Generals boast of their kind treatment of enemies after a victory. "National honor" does not forbid it. "The law allows it, and the court would sustain it." Yet after an unprovoked succession of victories the nation cannot afford to be generous, or even equitable. If you but hearken to the promoters of the war you will find we cannot yield any thing that we could safely keep. "National honor" forbids. We have not much need to add Mexico to the Union but "National honor" will not permit us to retire now we have seated ourselves in the halls of Montezuma, and our covetous of more territory and more slavery are now demanding of Congress power to raise a still larger standing army to guard what we have taken, and to acquire still more.

If "National honor" is a barbed hook that admits of no backward movement we should be cautious how we demand. Only forward step may be as fast to our hour as "non-false step" in private life, and if Congress intends to guard strictly the "National honor," we may have it, no more money or men should be sent; for the further we advance the more risk we run of violating these notions of National honor.

Gen. Lane, now in Mexico, has the following paragraph in his official report concerning the recent capture of Puebla. After describing the first part of the attack, he says: "We entered one of the most beautiful sights conceivable—Every gun was served with the utmost rapidity; and the crash of the walls and the houses under attack by our shot and shells, was mingled with the roar of our artillery. The bright light of the cannon enabled us to direct our shots to the most thickly populated part of the town."

"A beautiful sight!" Truly a beautiful sight to such as rejoice in torture and destruction. Nothing can be more beautiful, to one who delights in carnage, than to witness its rapid progress and its thorough execution. The walls of a city of 80,000 people are made to tumble down on women and children because the leaders and governors of that nation have not governed well.

We may be under the delusion and necessity of inflicting pain and woe on the innocent while we attempt to punish the guilty, who rule them. Yet who ever before imagined that such a scene could be beautiful? None but those whose sense of justice is perverted, and whose taste is heave, can see any thing beautiful in the sufferings of the innocent for the sins of the guilty.

A drunkard who sets fire to a city may call the flames "a beautiful sight." A practiced executioner may admire the swing of his axe, or his guillotine and call his work "beautiful." And the officers of the Holy Inquisition may be so trained as to delight in the agonies of subjects under torture.

But officers in modern armies have been supposed to be gentlemen; men of nice feeling, and unwilling to inflict or to witness unnecessary pain. Yet Gen. Lane seems delighted with the employment of battering down walls well known to be filled with people incapable of taking war. He is captivated with a spectacle that must make the angels weep.

[Editor.] We are obliged to the Hon. D. P. King for the very valuable Tract of the Hon. Albert Gallatin on "Peace with Mexico." Mr. Gallatin cannot be said to be a political partisan of the present day. He stands aloof party, and he has taken a view of the attitude of our government in relation to Mexico which is not an easy matter to controvert. The Pamphlet of this venerable patriot ought to be generally read.

INDEMNITY REFUSED.—Charles Colburn was convicted of cruelly beating a horse, yesterday, in the Municipal Court, and fined \$50.

We have no doubt this was a righteous judgment, and we should like to see a number more brought to the bar for the abuse of animals. Truck horses in this city are made to carry too heavy loads by one half. There is a city law against loading so heavy, but none of the officers regard it. None can expect the pavements to remain good under such loads.

Mr. T. M. Vinson of Dorchester, has brought us a number of very handsome ears of white corn. The kernel is of the very largest kind, of a deep red color in ripening. It is much esteemed in Plymouth county.

SENATORS OF MASSACHUSETTS. The Gov. and Council have examined the returns of votes for Senators and report that 17 have been elected leaving 23 vacancies. The Senators in the Norfolk district were not elected, but Mr. Clark of Waltham came within a few votes of a choice.

WE learn that the Rev. Dr. Colman died at his residence in Dorchester on Thursday morning, in the 65th year of his age, and the 40th of his ministry. The funeral is to be on Monday next, at one o'clock, from the church.

IT is proposed to keep Christmas this year as a holiday. We learn that many merchants intend to shut up their stores on that day.

OUR State legislature will convene in one week from Wednesday next. Our subscribers who do not choose to send us payment by mail will have a good opportunity now to ask a favor of a Member of the legislature, who will doubtless like to do so on behalf of the Ploughman office.

N. B. This is the very season of the year for farmers, who have long lived by borrowing, to subscribe and read their own paper.

THE vote in the House of Representatives on the resolutions offered by Mr. Westcott, a democratic Member from Illinois, on the subject of improving the navigation of rivers, and authorizing to one in favor of internal improvement. The vote was 123 yeas to 54 nays—almost three to one in favor of internal improvement.

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CONGRESSIONAL.

Saturday, Dec. 18.

Mr. Hunt, of New York, introduced a series of resolutions passed by the Legislature of Michigan, in favor of the annexation of Oregon. Referred to the Committee on Post Roads.

Mr. Hale presented two anti-slavery petitions, and made strenuous efforts to induce the Senate to depart from its settled practice, and to receive petitions of that import. The question of non-reception being put, Mr. Berrien moved to lay that question on the table, which was decided in the affirmative. Ayes 33, Nays 16.

Mr. Ashley, of the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill to amend the acts regulating the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in certain cases. Passed.

Mr. Cass, from the Military Committee, reported a bill to raise for a limited time, an additional military force, and gave notice that he would call it up at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Lincoln, of Illinois, offered a resolution relative to the several Messengers of the President on the Mexican war, and requesting of him information on numerous points touching the causes of the war and the rights of the United States to territory between the Nueces and the Rio Grande.

Mr. McClelland presented a resolution calling for statistics of the commerce of the Western Lakes.

Mr. Kaufman offered a resolution of inquiry as to the expediency of authorizing Postmasters to receive and transmit money for newspapers free of postage.

On motion of Mr. Vinson, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the message of the President, and took up the bill appropriating \$2,000,000 to the relief of the Freedmen.

Mr. Johnson, of Maryland, submitted a resolution calling upon government to exhibit the cost of war, the number of killed and wounded, and the number of troops at present engaged in the war.

Mr. Crittenden introduced a bill appropriating \$25,000 for the purchase of the Madison papers. Laid over.

Mr. Fairfield, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill for the appointment of assistant masters in the navy.

Mr. Allen announced the death of Mr. Hamer of Ohio, upon which the customary resolutions were adopted, and the Senate adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE.—After the transaction of some unimportant business, Mr. Morris, of Ohio, announced the death of Senator Harner in a feeling and eloquent address. Appropriate resolutions were passed, and the House adjourned.

LATER FROM THE SEAT OF WAR. The mails of last night brought some late accounts from Mexico, and confirmed the reports of our friends, but yet confirmed as they bear upon the question of peace or war. The accounts are sent forward by instalments through the service telegraph, and what is called "vague expressions," and we place them before our readers in the best manner which they appear to us.

Mr. Schenck offered a series of resolutions requesting the President to communicate by what authority a Civil Government had been established in the territories of Mexico, his overtures, and Mr. Broadhead's bill relative to postage on newspapers was read twice and referred.

Mr. Pettit offered a joint resolution declaring that in the event of an annexation of Texas, the majority of the Congress government was power to inform where they were necessary to facilitate the transportation of military stores, &c., and to improve harbors on the Atlantic or Lake coast, wherever necessary to the lives of seamen, for the protection of commerce, &c. The resolution was laid over.

Resolutions in favor of the manner in which the war has been conducted, and of claiming indemnity, were laid over.

On motion of Mr. Dayton, a resolution was adopted directing the Committee to inquire into the propriety of legislation necessary to carry into effect the treaty with France, in relation to the mutual surrender of fugitives from justice. Adjourned.

IN THE HOUSE. Mr. Giddings presented a memorial from nineteen citizens of this district, in favor of the arrest of General W. V. Smith, and the release of the prisoners held in the District of Columbia.

A motion to lay the regular order of business on the table for giving this memorial was rejected, 97 to 97. The Speaker giving his casting vote in favor of the memorial.

Mr. Cobb of Georgia introduced a resolution in relation to the annexation of Texas, and the release of the prisoners held in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Botsford offered a resolution calling on the President for information relating to the war with Mexico, and the release of the prisoners held in the District of Columbia.

Notice was given of a bill to make Brooklyn a port of entry.

Mr. Adams introduced a resolution calling on the Secretary of State for information relative to the Convention of 1839, which was adopted.

Mr. Vinson, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriations to supply in part a deficiency in the appropriations for the subsistence of soldiers, for the year ending June, 1848. Referred to the Committee of the Whole, and with the letters of the Secretary of War and the Commissioner General, ordered to be printed.

Mr. Vinson gave notice that he would move to-morrow to go into committee and take up this bill.

THROUGH OHIO, INDIANA, ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI. Adjourned.

Wednesday, Dec. 22.

IN SENATE.—A petition from Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton, presented by Mr. Green, praying Congress to purchase 1000 copies of the Hamilton papers.

Mr. Hale presented two anti-slavery petitions, and made strenuous efforts to induce the Senate to depart from its settled practice, and to receive petitions of that import. The question of non-reception being put, Mr. Berrien moved to lay that question on the table, which was decided in the affirmative. Ayes 33, Nays 16.

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MARRIAGES.

In this city, by Rev. Mr. Gray, Mr. George E. Fuller to Miss Eliza L. Lathrop, of Malden. By Rev. Dr. Lowell, Mr. Loring Cunningham to Miss Margaretta Lathrop. By Rev. Mr. Steiner, Mr. James Henderson to Miss Sarah Gifford.

In Roxbury, 15th inst, by Rev. Dr. Putnam, Dr. Joseph Kirtland, of Andover, to Elizabeth Frances, daughter of George Watson, Esq. of R. In Cambridge, 20th inst, by Rev. Mr. Collier, Mr. Adin S. Boyden, of Taubeton, Geo., to Miss Anna S. Rhodes, of Waltham.

In West Cambridge, 20th inst, by Rev. Mr. Carlton, Capt John Wesley Wetmore, of Boston, to Miss Elizabeth M. Richardson, of W. C. In Plymouth, by Rev. Mr. Puffer, Mr. Jacob F. Bates, to Caroline L. Bates, both of C. In Wrentham, Mr. Albert E. Dodge, of Boston, to Miss Louisa Jepson, of W.

In Lynn, at the Friends Meeting House, William Bradford, of Fairhaven, to Mary S., daughter of N. M. Lincoln, of Lynn. In Newburyport, by Rev. Mr. Hiram Bates, to Miss Emily T. Goodwin. In Boston, by Rev. Mr. Adams, to Miss Ellen B. Adams.

In Hopkinton, Dec. 14, Mr. H. P. Kidder to Miss Caroline W. daughter of George Arnold, Esq. In Lowell, Dec. 16, by Rev. Dr. Nelson, Mr. Samuel A. Grosvenor, of Paxton, to Miss Marianne, daughter of Samuel W. Grosvenor, of Lowell. In Newburyport, Mr. Moses W. Lunt, of N. to Miss Lois A. Tarr, of Rockport.

In Danvers, by Rev. Mr. Braman, Rev. Richard T. Searle of Hemlock, N. H., to Miss Emily A., youngest daughter of John S. Putnam, of W. In Gloucester, by Rev. Mr. John F. Foster, to Miss Mary A. Norris. In Brooklyn, N. H., 18th inst, Charles R. Ingels, Esq., of New York, to Virginia, daughter of Capt. Francis H. Gregory, U. S.

